

Lila Freese, 2023

Learning Styles Reflection

When reading through this article I was a tad confused. To me, the important part of learning styles is used within a classroom setting by the teacher. For example, if you can't remember the various names and locations of cells from reading/listening, you could do a color by numbers worksheet in class to help you remember. The main point I'm making here is doing it IN CLASS. Doing the learning in a designated learning environment where you are provided with materials, assistance, and peers who are also working on the same project is critical. No one likes to do things on their own time and most times they won't. Especially children with short attention spans.

“Given the prevailing belief that learning styles matter, and the fact many students blame poor academic performance on the lack of a match between their learning style and teachers' instructional methods, one might expect students to rely on techniques that support their personal learning preferences when working on their own.” The issue with this is that they expect a human person, particularly a child, to do the work that's required of them with no supervision on their own time. Humans are notorious procrastinators, myself included, and I think it's an oversight to leave that fact out of the mix. They even acknowledge this in the last sentence of the article, so they know it's a factor and are choosing to leave it out of the discussion.

Here's another problem I encountered with this article. Most students are extremely unmotivated to complete their work because they genuinely believe that they will never need it and are at odds with being forced to learn it. We should instead be looking at the 'why' of

the matter. Why aren't they motivated? Why is the curriculum so isolating to so many students? What can we do to encourage their adventurous spirit and curiosity?

Curiosity is often crushed in the public education system. Students are required to stick to very preordained materials, we measure their success in letter grades instead of effort, and most teachers have to be on very tight schedules to be able to teach the materials required in the short amount of time they have. Because of this, a lot of students are left in the dust. Kids are incredibly observant and much smarter than we give them credit for. They see all of this, so why should they care?

I've found that when teachers acknowledge learning styles and adapt to them IN a classroom setting, kids will succeed and work harder BECAUSE they are being acknowledged as individuals whose minds and opinions matter! It's not so much in the learning style itself that boosts students' efforts as in the fact that they are being recognized and seen as the individuals they are.

Overall, I don't see a problem with children feeling seen and encouraged. I don't see a problem with children realizing that they are capable through different strategies. I don't know why we are focusing on this particular aspect when the problem is definitely with the educational system itself! A system that values a letter grade over the power of a curious mind is in serious need of reassessment.